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RSC Statement on Kingston/Wolf/Wamp Earmark Reform Legislation

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Congressman Jeb Hensarling (R-TX), Chairman of the Republican Study Committee, issued the following statement today after several House appropriators announced the introduction of earmark reform legislation that would create a Joint Select Committee on earmarks and place a moratorium on them while the Committee is completing its work:

“Earmarks are a large part of the culture of spending and too often they create an unbreakable dependency on the federal government. Although not all earmarks are bad, too often the process lends itself to the triumph of seniority over merit, secrecy over transparency, and the special interest over the national interest. It is impossible to combat reckless government spending until you combat the culture of spending, and that cannot happen until there is complete transparency and accountability in the earmarking process.

“Recently, we have witnessed an extremely disturbing pattern of campaign contributions going into one end of the process and taxpayer funded earmarks coming out the other. In some instances, faux companies and executive boards may have been established by campaign contributors and former Congressional staff for the sole purpose of receiving earmarks. Some corporations are going so far as to move into districts of members simply to ride the pork train.

“The Democrats said they’d clean up the process and instead they attempted to roll back transparency guidelines resulting in weaker accountability. The problem has gotten worse, the earmarking process has been corrupted, and it needs to be fixed immediately.

“I commend Congressman Kingston, Congressman Wamp, Congressman Wolf and other Republican members of the Appropriations Committee for recognizing that the earmarking system is broken. This legislation is clearly one step in the right direction.”

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*Congressman Jeb Hensarling is Chairman of the Republican Study Committee (RSC).
http://www.house.gov/list/press/tx05_hensarling/rsc/111507EarmarkLegislation.html*